(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS. (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). There has been no change in the Government decision to dis-continue the loan licensing system in drug sector beyond 31.12.1991. However a number of representations have been received from the Industry which are being examined.

[*Translation*]

Price of Salt

6748.SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of salt has been increased inspite of its very good production in country this year;

(b) if so, the dates on which the prices of Salt have been increased during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to encourage the production of salt in the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any long-term scheme with regard to check the smuggling of salt to various countries and to encourage the production thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). There has been no increase in the overall retail prices of salt this year. However, the retail prices of salt have marginally increased this year as compared to the previous three years due to various factors such as increase in the freight, handling charges, local transport and the cost of packaging material.

(c) to (e). Various steps have been taken by the Government to increase salt production. These include bringing more areas under salt cultivation, optimum utilisation of salt lands by adopting scientific production techniques. Possibilities of exploiting the salt potential of the Great Rann of Kutch are also being explored as a long term measures to increase salt production.

Government have not received any report about smuggling of salt. However, the concerned State Governments have already been advised to take appropriate action in the regard.

[*English*]

Drug Policy

6749. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce significant changes in the Drug Policy with a view to revise it and the accompanying price control mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the suggestions proposed by the drug industry for inclusion in the new drug policy; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZ-